

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-13, 29 and 31-43, and indicated that claims 14 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, Applicant cancelled claims 14, 31, 35, and 39-41 and amended claims 1, 29, 33, and 36 to place the present application in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant amended the specification to correct a typographical error. These amendments do not add any new matter. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 3-13, 29, 32-34, 36-38, 42, and 43 remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Amendment to the Specification

As mentioned, the specification on page 12 was amended to correct a typographical error. The acronyms for melt flow rate and melt index were corrected. Again, no new matter was added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. As mentioned, the Examiner stated that claims 16 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To place the present application in condition for allowance, Applicant incorporated the subject matter of claim 14 into independent claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 39 into independent claim 36.

Independent Claim 29

In addition, Applicant incorporated the subject matter of claim 39 (indicated allowable by the Examiner) into independent claim 29. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, for example, at page 51, lines 1-12. The amendment is directed to placement of a Raman spectroscopic probe in an *overhead discharge stream of the flash vessel*. As appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art, the claimed *overhead discharge stream* may form in an upper portion of the flash vessel (i.e., above the disengaging section in the flash vessel) and exit the flash vessel (e.g., via an overhead outlet nozzle of the flash vessel) into an overhead conduit of the flash vessel (e.g., a conduit coupled to the overhead outlet nozzle of the flash vessel).

As implied by the Examiner's indicated allowance of claim 39, the cited references do not teach or suggest the use of Raman spectroscopy to measure the concentration of vapor components recovered in the flash vessel and discharged overhead from the flash vessel. To be sure, the cited references are absolutely devoid of these features. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Long et al. and Marrow et al. are directed to Raman in-situ analysis of granular *polymer* moving through the process upstream of the extruder. See Office Action, pages 3-4.

Lastly, while Long mentions placement of a Raman probe in cycle gas piping associated with a gas phase reactor, the total focus in Long is on analysis of the *polymer* granules (e.g., polymer entrained in the gas-phase reactor cycle gas) moving through the

system. *See* Long, page 24, ¶ 0178 (listing “cycle gas piping” as a location for placement of the Raman probe and then stating “wherein the step of irradiating acquiring a Raman spectrum comprises . . . irradiating the sample of *polymer*”) (emphasis added). Moreover, the configuration and operation of cycle gas piping is inapposite that of the presently-claimed flash gas piping. Indeed, such a conclusion is implied by the Examiner’s indicated allowance of claim 39. Again, the references do not teach or suggest analyzing the *flash gas* via Raman spectroscopy.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. However, Applicant believes this rejection to be moot in view of the amendments to claim 36 to correct typographical errors. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the foregoing rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-13, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2006/0136149 (Long et al.) or US 2004/0133364 (Marrow et al.); claims 36-38 as being unpatentable over Long et al.; claims 29, 31-35 and 43 as being unpatentable over Marrow et al, in combination with US 6204344 (Kendrick et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, Applicant believes these

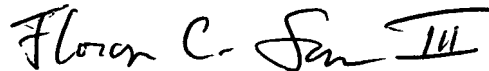
rejections to be moot in view of the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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